

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY MEETING

ETWALL – AREA 1

Meeting Minutes – September 30, 2025, at
6:30pm

Etwall Frank Wickham Hall

PRESENT: -

South Derbyshire District Council Representatives

Councillor David Muller (Chair), Councillor Grahame Andrew, Councillor Julie Jackson, Councillor Andrew Kirke, Tracy Bingham, Claire Rawlins, Paige Robinson.

Derbyshire County Council Representatives

Councillor Martyn Ford.

Derbyshire Police Representatives

PCSO Megan Taylor.

Parish Council/ Meeting Representatives

Anne Muller, David Neal, Judi M, Frances Smith, and Ursula Towne.

Members of the Public

Ian Bennett and Angela Jennes.

E/A 7. Open Meeting

a) Introductions and Housekeeping

b) Apologies

Apologies received from Councillor Sundip Meghani.

c) Chair's Announcements

Employability Programmes

Using UK Shared Prosperity Funding, the Council has supported two new employability programmes which will provide free support for unemployed residents to get back into work. The two programmes are '**Beyond Barriers**' which will be delivered by Groundwork Five Counties, and which provides long term one-to-one support for job seekers and '**Active Futures**' which will be run by the Councils Active



Communities and Health team, which provides short-term support based on increasing activity levels.

Rosliston Forestry Centre

Rosliston Forestry Centre are getting into the Christmas spirit and are lining up their Christmas Market for the holiday period.

The market will consist of 30+ stalls, and it will run across two weekends (29th-30th November and 6th-7th December from 10am to 4pm), giving you plenty of chances to fit in some last-minute Christmas shopping!

Entry is free but don't forget to bring along some spending money!

Arts Strategy

The Council is currently working on developing its first Arts Strategy, so if you're an artist, musician or someone who enjoys creative experiences, we are keen to have your input.

Public input is vital in helping shape its direction and priorities, so an online Survey has been developed to capture local opinion to ensure that the strategy reflects the needs, aspirations, and creativity of the local community.

The survey can be accessed via the Councils Website, a QR code taking you direct to the survey is also on the leaflets available tonight.

Information on this and the employability programmes can be found on leaflets at the Signing in table

d) To Receive the Minutes of the Last Meeting

All received as a true and accurate record.

e) Matters Arising from the Last Minutes

Councillor Andrew requested for the Area Forum minutes to be circulated sooner after the meeting has taken place.

E/A 8. Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Report and Police Q&A

Derbyshire Police updated that, since that last meeting, priorities have been set in each area. Tackling Speeding, anti-social vehicles and vehicle theft are priorities in the area. Patrols have been carried out in Hilton and Mickleover area in uniform and plain clothes, both in the day and at night, with police carrying out stop searches during these patrols. Two men were arrested in the area for stealing fuel from HGVs, with barrels of fuel being found in their homes.



Crime prevention events have also been held within the community to raise awareness on how to prevent crimes such as vehicle theft. Police are also attending local community and youth groups.

In more rural areas of South Derbyshire, there is work being done to set Farm watch back up.

Q&A

An issue regarding parking and speeding issues in Etwall was raised. Police informed that parking issues are dealt with by Derbyshire County Council’s enforcement officers, so they should be contacted regarding parking matters. However, police are carrying out speed checks in Etwall, the Etwall Speed watch has currently stopped due to lack of volunteers, but if the community is interested in setting the scheme back up, it can be arranged.

Another concern raised was regarding motorised vehicles for food delivery companies. The vehicles are dangerous as they are going on paths with no lights. Police informed that many of those types of vehicles have been seized since increased the powers were given to Police. Some of the vehicles are insured so they cannot be ceased in the same way.

E/A 9. South Derbyshire Community Safety Partnership/ Safer Neighbourhood

Grants Update

Community Safety Partnership update

Since the last meeting, our new Community Safety Officer, Karen Haywood, has been out across South Derbyshire to work with the community. Work done in the community includes working local pubs via the Pubwatch scheme to promote ‘Ask Angela’ as well as providing the pubs involved with free anti-spiking devices in order to tackle violence against women and girls, with the Domestic Abuse Hotline also being promoted in each area across South Derbyshire. Details for contact regarding community issues can be found in the ‘useful contacts’ section of the circulated agenda pack.

Safer Neighbourhoods Funding

The following application has been received for Safer Neighbourhood Funding this financial year, so funding is still available for community projects for the 2024/2025 financial year. Anyone with any projects should contact Chris or Paige. Leaflets are available containing more information about the funding.

2025-26 Safer Neighbourhoods Funding					
Project Name	Ref	Organisation	Amount Applied for	Total Project Cost	Amount Granted
Speed Indicator Devices	A1.01	Hatton Parish Council	£ 2,500.00	£ 7,200.00	£ 2,500.00



ASB Figures

A CPNW was issued to adult Hilton resident who was causing ASB issues to neighbours.

E/A 10. Local Community and Voluntary Sector Projects/ Update

The 2025 CVS update has been attached with the minutes.

E/A 11. Local Authority Update and Public Q&A

1. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update – September 2025

At the end of 2024, the Government asked councils across Derbyshire to submit ideas for how local councils could be reorganised to better serve residents. The deadline for final proposals is Friday 28 November 2025.

South Derbyshire District Council has been working closely with the other District and Borough Councils in Derbyshire, as well as Derby City Council, to develop a joint plan. This group effort is called “**One Derbyshire, Two Councils**” and suggests creating two new councils—one for the north and one for the south of the county.

To help shape our final plan, we carried out a public consultation over summer 2025. Over 7,000 people took part, sharing their views through surveys and community engagement. This valuable feedback is now being reviewed, along with other evidence, to help finalise our proposal.

The final version will be considered by all involved councils before being sent to the Government by the end of November.

What Happens Next?

- The Government will look at all proposals for Derbyshire.
- A national consultation is expected to start in early 2026.
- A decision is likely by July 2026.
- If approved, elections for new councils would happen in 2027, with the new system starting in April 2028.

More information on LGR can be found on the Councils Website including the Stakeholder booklet and a frequently asked questions document. Just type in LGR on the Councils search facility.

2. Canvass & Postal Vote Reapplication



South Derbyshire District Council's Electoral Services team is currently working on two key projects:

Annual Canvass:

Reminder letters are being sent to households that haven't responded. In October, council staff will visit non-responding properties to confirm who should be on the Electoral Register. The updated Register will be published on 1 December 2025.

Postal Vote Changes:

Voters whose postal vote expires on 31 January 2026 (due to changes from the Elections Act 2022) will be contacted soon with details on how to reapply.

3. Budget Setting – 2026/27 Update

Each year, the council must set a balanced budget. This involves reviewing last year's budget and making adjustments based on future plans and expected changes to income and spending. A draft budget will be presented to Councillors in November 2025, followed by a six-week public consultation. Residents, tenants, businesses, and organisations will be invited to share their views.

Feedback from the consultation will help shape the final budget, which will be approved early next year.

Fair Funding Review 2.0

The Government's Fair Funding Review 2.0, announced in June 2025, aims to reform how councils are funded from 2026/27. It will consider local needs, rural costs, and the ability to raise Council Tax, while resetting business rates income. A consultation on the proposed changes closed in August.

We expect more detail in late October/early November, which will help inform our draft budget. The Autumn Budget is scheduled for 26 November, and the provisional Local Government Financial Settlement will follow in December.

Early analysis suggests the changes may reduce the council's retained business rates and affect our share from the Derbyshire Business Rates Pool. While our forecasts broadly align with Government plans, there is still uncertainty.

Our Budget Principles for 2026/27:

1. Maintain a stable budget aligned with our Medium-Term Financial Plan
2. Use procurement to deliver savings
3. Invest in assets to support services and reduce costs
4. Maximise income opportunities
5. Assess the impact of national changes on local government



We'll keep residents updated and encourage everyone to take part in the upcoming budget consultation.

Q&A

A concern was raised regarding the reorganisation of local councils and if smaller areas will be forgotten as a result of councils being responsible for a larger area and population. Tracy Bingham informed that the government is looking to reorganise councils to balance the population with each new council being expected to cover around 500,000 people. The government has been clear that the community should have a voice in the decision-making process. Details are being worked out but parish councils will still exist under the reorganisation and local decision making will remain.

Another question was raised around how the population split would work with Derby City as they would dominate the new council due to having a larger population. Tracy Bingham informed that different options are being considered for the council split in Derbyshire, such as if Amber Valley will be included in the north or south of Derbyshire.

A question was raised about what would happen regarding elections with the councils reorganisation. Councillor Ford informed that the SDDC elections are expected to be postponed, giving councillors a 5-year term and then a shadow election will take place.

Councillor Patten asked where the hub would be in South Derbyshire when the new councils come into place. Tracy Bingham informed that it has not yet been decided and the decision will most likely come from the elected shadow council.

An attendee asked about SDDC's process regarding if anything can be done about people leaving items outside of their house for people to take as it may result in people fly tipping as items can remain for quite some time. Councillor Muller informed that the issue can be taken to Parish Council meetings or it can be reported directly to SDDC's Environmental health team.

A question about SDDC's policy regarding attaching posters to railings. Councillor Muller updated that the issue was mentioned at the local Parish Council meetings and there has been an issue with signage being put up on the sides of the road and the parishes don't want to encourage the issue.

An attendee asked about the situation with the Ash tree dye back. Tracy Bingham offered to take the situation back so an update can be provided at the next meeting.

ACTION: Tracy Bingham to provide an update on the Ash Tree dieback situation.

E/A 12. Summary of Agreed Actions

ACTIONS



- 1. Parks and Green Spaces team to provide an update on the Ash tree dye back situation.**

E/A 13. Close and Date of Next Meeting

January/February 2026

Councillor David Muller
CHAIR

The meeting terminated at 7:21pm

